

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 11273 170857Z

13

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

----- 126078

O R 170830Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3435

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGO

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 11273

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENCE

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. HIGHWAY 4 TO THE SEA, OPEN LESS THAN A WEEK, WAS CUT AGAIN TUESDAY MORNING BY AN UNKNOWN-SIZED COMMUNIST FORCE SOME 50 ROAD KILOMETERS FROM KOMPONG SOM. BY LATE TUESDAY AFTERNOON, THE 10-KILOMETER LONG CUT HAD BEEN REDUCED TO FOUR KILOMETERS. THE COMMUNIST LOST 11 KILLED IN THE ACTION AND NINE CAPTURED. FANK HAD LIGHT CASUALTIES. THE ROAD-CLEARING OPERATION IS CONTINUING.

2. AT KOMPONG CHAM, FANK REPORTED LIGHT AND SCATTERED ENEMY SHELLINGS AROUND THE CITY'S PERIMETER ON WEDNESDAY. TO THE NORTHEAST, GOVERNMENT FORCES ENLARGED THE PERIMETER IN A ONE-KILOMETER ADVANCE. DURING THAT OPERATION, AN ENEMY CACHE OF APPROXIMATELY 100 ROUNDS OF 105MM AMMUNITION WAS RECOVERED BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS.

3. FIERCE HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTING WAS REPORTED WEDNESDAY FROM TRAM KHAR IN THE ROUTE 3 AREA SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH AS COMMUNIST FORCES BROKE THROUGH THE TOWN'S SOUTHERN DEFENSES AND OCCUPIED THE SOUTH-
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 11273 170857Z

ERN MARKET. FANK THUS FAR HAS TAKEN MODEERATE CASUALTIES

IN THE ACTION.

4. ON ROUTE 5 NORTH TO BATTAMBANG, THE TOWN OF TUK LAK REPORTED A RELATIVE CALM. SALA LEK PRAM AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE COMMUNIST-HELD PORTION OF THE ROAD REPORTED SPORADIC MIXED MORTAR FIRE ALL DAY TUESDAY AND INTO THE NIGHT. ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, THERE WERE LIGHT SCATTERED COMMUNIST SHELLINGS AGAINST FANK POSITIONS AT TAKEO, KAMPOT, KOMPONG THOM, KOMPONG SPEU, PREY VENG, AND ON ROUTES 26 AND 38 AND ALONG THE BASSAC SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH.

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